

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: McGonagle et al. ) Certification of Facsimile Transmission  
Serial No.: 09/754,762 )  
Filed: January 4, 2001 ) I hereby certify that this paper and the  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS ) documents referred to as enclosed therewith  
FOR FILLING STOCK ORDERS ) are being facsimile transmitted to the United  
Group Art Unit: 3653 ) States Patent and Trademark Office  
Examiner: Jeffery A. Shapiro ) Facsimile No. (703)308-2571 on the date  
shown below:  
September 16, 2002  
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the official action having a mail date of August 15, 2002, setting a one-month statutory period for reply which normally would expire on September 15, 2002. September 15, 2002, however, was a Sunday, and this paper is being filed on the first normal business day after that date. Accordingly, this paper is timely filed, and no extension of time is necessary.

REMARKS

The office action identifies four groups of claims that are allegedly directed to distinct inventions: Group I (claims 1-6, which are said to be directed to "a method of sorting stock items, classified in class 209, subclass 546), Group II (claims 7-28, which are said to be directed to "a computer controlled sorting apparatus, classified in class 700, subclass 223), Group III (claims 29-32, which are said to be drawn to "a product handling apparatus having

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